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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Monday, August 23, 2004
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MAJOR RELEASES

OTHER RELEASES

Canadian Framework for Culture Statistics

This new publication, available today, sets the framework for the Culture Statistics Program at Statistics Canada to measure culture industries in Canada. The publication provides definitions, concepts and analytical conventions that will be the foundation for future developments in culture statistics.

This framework is the culmination of a long process in obtaining input from stakeholders and ensuring that the Culture Statistics Program is well integrated within the national statistical system.

The framework sets the scene for the development of a coherent set of culture statistics. It includes a definition of culture for statistical purposes. It lays out the industries included in the scope of this definition and uses the taxonomies of industries, goods and services and occupations from recognized standard classifications.

It also integrates the social and economic aspects of culture, making the framework broad enough to encompass the consumption of culture goods and services, as well as the social and economic impacts arising from the creative chain.

The publication *Canadian Framework for Culture Statistics* (81-595-MIE2004021, free) is now available online.

For more information, contact Client Services (1-800-307-3382; *cult.tourstats@statcan.ca*) or Trish Horricks (613-951-0313, fax: 613-951-1333; *trish.horricks@statcan.ca*), Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics.

MAJOR RELEASES

Retail Trade

June 2004

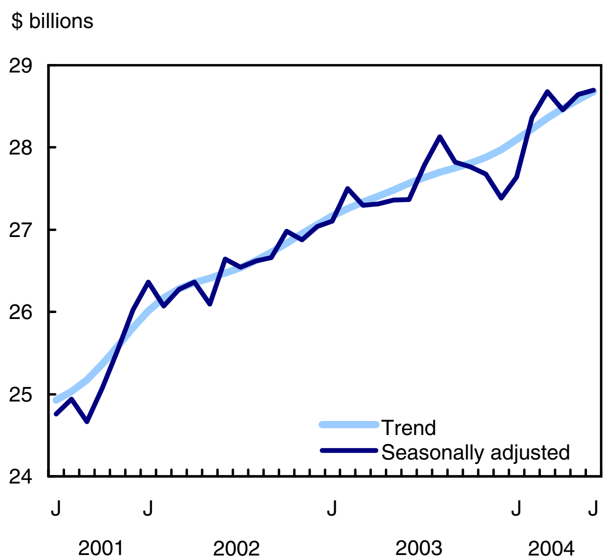
Total retail sales edged up 0.2% in June to $28.7 billion, after advancing 0.6% in May. Higher sales at auto dealers and pharmacies offset lower sales in five other retail sectors. Unseasonably cool weather may have dampened retail sales in the furniture, food, clothing, building supplies and general merchandise sectors.

Excluding sales by dealers of new, used and recreational vehicles and auto parts, retail sales fell 0.5% in June, after increasing 1.5% in May. This was the first decline in six months for non-auto retailers.

Retailers have enjoyed five monthly sales gains since the beginning of 2004, after suffering significant declines over the last four months of 2003. Previously, retail sales had generally been increasing since the fall of 2001.

Since turning around in January, retail sales have been strong in the first half of 2004. Cumulative sales in the first six months of the year were 4.0% higher than in the same period of 2003. In comparison, the sales growth in the same six-month period was 3.9% in 2003 and 6.3% in 2002.

Retail sales up in the second quarter despite little change in June



Prices had little effect on June's results, as retail sales increased 0.3% in constant dollars, following a 0.3% decline in May.

Retailers posted a 1.3% sales gain in the second quarter of 2004 compared with the first, when sales rose 2.3%. In constant dollars, these gains translated into increases of 0.3% in the second quarter and 1.9% in the first quarter.

Sales up at auto dealers and pharmacies

New car dealers (+2.4%) and used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers (+3.0%) enjoyed higher sales in June, after experiencing setbacks in the previous two months. New car dealers, which also sell used vehicles and provide repair services, have been catching up on their sales losses suffered in the last five months of 2003. Sales by these dealers, however, stood at 4.6% below July 2003, the last month before sales began to fall. Previously, new car dealers had experienced record sales levels in the first half of 2003 and throughout 2002.

Strong fleet sales partly contributed to pushing sales up at new car dealers in June. This sales gain at auto dealers coincided with a widely reported decline in the number of new motor vehicles sold in that month. Unit sales estimates are derived from data obtained directly from motor vehicle manufacturers and importers. These estimates may differ from sales reported by new car dealers as a result of possible differences in record keeping, including timing issues, such as the treatment of fleet sales and different month-ends.

Consumer spending at pharmacies and personal care stores jumped 2.2% in June, adding to the strong sales observed in these stores since the beginning of 2004. Cumulative sales for the first half of the year stood at 8.0% above those in the same period of 2003.

Steep sales declines in furniture, food and clothing sectors

Drops in furniture stores (-4.1%) and in computer and software stores (-5.6%) sales, led to a 1.7% decline in the furniture, home furnishings and electronics sector in June. Despite this decline, sales in furniture stores have increased rapidly since early 2003, after posting little change in 2002. Computer and software store sales have generally been falling in a volatile pattern since the summer of 2000.

Retailers in the food and beverage sector posted a 1.0% sales decline in June. Within this sector, sales fell 0.6% in supermarkets and 3.9% in beer, wine and liquor stores. In spite of this decline, sales in supermarkets have shown new strength since the beginning of 2004, after a period of essentially flat sales that began in the spring of 2003. Sales at beer, wine and liquor stores have generally been increasing since early 2003, despite volatile results since March 2004.

Unfavourable weather conditions in the spring of 2004 depressed, to some degree, sales of apparel. Retailers in the clothing and accessories sector posted a 1.0% sales decline in June, marking the third consecutive monthly decline. Prior to these recent declines, consumer spending in this sector had generally been increasing since the fall of 2003, following a period of essentially flat sales in the previous two years.

Home centres and hardware stores posted a 2.0% sales decline in June, pushing sales down by 0.5% in the overall renovation sector. Despite the decline, sales in home centres and hardware stores have risen rapidly since early 2002, showing overall annual gains of about 17% in 2002 and 2003. So far in 2004, sales at these stores were up 12.6% compared with the first six months of 2003.

Lower sales in department stores (-1.0%) led to a 0.4% decline in the general merchandise sector in June. After strong growth in the first two months of 2004, department store sales fell 1.1% in the second quarter, marking the first quarterly decline in two years.

Sales stronger in Western provinces and Quebec

Retail sales advances were strongest in Manitoba (+1.9%), Quebec (+0.9%), Alberta (+0.5%) and British Columbia (+0.5%) in June. On the other hand, sales fell 0.5% in Ontario, after advancing 1.0% in May. Ontario's retail sales have changed little since March 2004, after posting strong gains in February and January. These gains were enough to offset the declines in the last four months of 2003.

Retailers in all four Western provinces have been very busy since sales jumped considerably in February 2004. On a year-over-year basis, sales were up strongly in Alberta (+11.7%), British Columbia (+8.0%), Manitoba (+7.5%) and Saskatchewan (+5.8%) in June.

In Quebec, retail sales have been generally on the rise since the beginning of 2004, advancing 5.0% between December 2003 and June 2004. Previously, sales had generally been increasing since the fall of 2001, with the exception of a slowdown near the end of 2003.

Related indicators for July

Total employment rose slightly in July (+0.1%), following three months of stronger growth. After a pause in employment growth in the first three months of the year, 139,100 jobs have been created since April 2004. Home construction activity remains at a high level, despite a 5.8% decline in housing starts in July. Housing starts have been falling since March 2004, when they reached their second highest level since August 1987. The number of new motor vehicles sold in July is expected to rise 2.0% from June, based on preliminary data obtained from the auto industry.

Available on CANSIM: tables 080-0014 to 080-0017 and 076-0005.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey numbers, including related surveys, 2406 and 2408.

The June 2004 issue of *Retail Trade* (63-005-XIE, $18/$166) will soon be available.

Data on retail trade for July 2004 will be released on September 21.

For more information or to order data, contact Client Services (1-877-421-3067; 613-951-3549; *retailinfo@statcan.ca*). For analytical information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Paul Gratton (613-951-3541), Distributive Trades Division.

□

Retail sales

	June 2003	March 2004[r]	April 2004[r]	May 2004[r]	June 2004[p]	May to June 2004	June 2003 to June 2004
	seasonally adjusted						
	$ millions					% change	
Automotive	**9,249**	**9,701**	**9,481**	**9,561**	**9,708**	**1.5**	**5.0**
New car dealers	5,709	5,878	5,653	5,545	5,678	2.4	-0.5
Used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers	1,205	1,245	1,240	1,210	1,246	3.0	3.5
Gasoline stations	2,335	2,579	2,588	2,805	2,784	-0.8	19.2
Furniture, home furnishings and electronics stores	**1,905**	**1,975**	**1,987**	**2,002**	**1,967**	**-1.7**	**3.2**
Furniture stores	669	699	704	706	677	-4.1	1.1
Home furnishings stores	313	357	364	362	365	0.8	16.3
Computer and software stores	164	151	146	156	147	-5.6	-10.3
Home electronics and appliance stores	759	768	772	778	778	0.1	2.6
Building and outdoor home supplies stores	**1,455**	**1,699**	**1,688**	**1,694**	**1,685**	**-0.5**	**15.8**
Home centres and hardware stores	1,096	1,329	1,312	1,326	1,299	-2.0	18.5
Specialized building materials and garden stores	358	370	376	368	386	4.9	7.8
Food and beverage stores	**6,518**	**6,672**	**6,634**	**6,816**	**6,748**	**-1.0**	**3.5**
Supermarkets	4,743	4,759	4,789	4,877	4,850	-0.6	2.2
Convenience and specialty food stores	716	752	746	749	755	0.9	5.6
Beer, wine and liquor stores	1,059	1,161	1,099	1,190	1,143	-3.9	8.0
Pharmacies and personal care stores	**1,765**	**1,883**	**1,874**	**1,881**	**1,923**	**2.2**	**8.9**
Clothing and accessories stores	**1,640**	**1,689**	**1,673**	**1,669**	**1,652**	**-1.0**	**0.7**
Clothing stores	1,221	1,273	1,261	1,260	1,243	-1.4	1.8
Shoe, clothing accessories and jewellery stores	419	416	412	409	409	0.2	-2.3
General merchandise stores	**3,369**	**3,493**	**3,550**	**3,487**	**3,473**	**-0.4**	**3.1**
Department stores	1,742	1,814	1,822	1,815	1,796	-1.0	3.1
Other general merchandise stores	1,627	1,679	1,728	1,672	1,677	0.3	3.1
Miscellaneous retailers	**1,464**	**1,570**	**1,572**	**1,535**	**1,537**	**0.2**	**5.0**
Sporting goods, hobby, music and book stores	721	727	732	707	728	2.9	0.9
Miscellaneous store retailers	743	843	840	828	810	-2.2	9.0
Total retail sales	**27,365**	**28,681**	**28,460**	**28,644**	**28,694**	**0.2**	**4.9**
Total excluding new car dealers, used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers	**20,451**	**21,559**	**21,566**	**21,889**	**21,770**	**-0.5**	**6.4**
Provinces and territories							
Newfoundland and Labrador	479	470	462	472	468	-1.0	-2.4
Prince Edward Island	115	118	118	117	116	-0.8	0.8
Nova Scotia	838	856	847	860	862	0.3	2.9
New Brunswick	660	660	659	648	641	-1.1	-2.9
Quebec	6,230	6,527	6,403	6,485	6,541	0.9	5.0
Ontario	10,345	10,657	10,528	10,636	10,582	-0.5	2.3
Manitoba	917	983	982	968	986	1.9	7.5
Saskatchewan	814	848	865	860	861	0.1	5.8
Alberta	3,244	3,613	3,610	3,606	3,625	0.5	11.7
British Columbia	3,626	3,851	3,888	3,896	3,914	0.5	8.0
Yukon	34	34	35	35	35	0.8	1.7
Northwest Territories	43	43	43	42	44	4.4	2.0
Nunavut	19	20	19	19	20	2.1	1.7

r *Revised figures.*
p *Preliminary figures.*

Retail sales

	June 2003	May 2004[r]	June 2004[p]	June 2003 to June 2004
	unadjusted			
	$ millions			% change
Automotive	**10,470**	**10,930**	**11,239**	**7.3**
New car dealers	6,604	6,451	6,769	2.5
Used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers	1,431	1,522	1,540	7.6
Gasoline stations	2,436	2,957	2,930	20.3
Furniture, home furnishings and electronics stores	**1,828**	**1,866**	**1,905**	**4.2**
Furniture stores	713	711	721	1.1
Home furnishings stores	309	349	369	19.1
Computer and software stores	156	144	140	-10.0
Home electronics and appliance stores	651	662	675	3.8
Building and outdoor home supplies stores	**1,907**	**2,161**	**2,208**	**15.8**
Home centres and hardware stores	1,449	1,652	1,682	16.1
Specialized building materials and garden stores	458	509	526	14.8
Food and beverage stores	**6,442**	**6,950**	**6,847**	**6.3**
Supermarkets	4,651	5,015	4,899	5.3
Convenience and specialty food stores	736	770	794	7.8
Beer, wine and liquor stores	1,055	1,164	1,154	9.4
Pharmacies and personal care stores	**1,735**	**1,874**	**1,914**	**10.4**
Clothing and accessories stores	**1,610**	**1,703**	**1,627**	**1.1**
Clothing stores	1,192	1,278	1,215	2.0
Shoe, clothing accessories and jewellery stores	418	425	412	-1.4
General merchandise stores	**3,448**	**3,604**	**3,595**	**4.3**
Department stores	1,693	1,785	1,757	3.8
Other general merchandise stores	1,756	1,819	1,839	4.7
Miscellaneous retailers	**1,426**	**1,489**	**1,509**	**5.8**
Sporting goods, hobby, music and book stores	668	655	678	1.5
Miscellaneous store retailers	759	834	832	9.6
Total retail sales	**28,868**	**30,576**	**30,845**	**6.9**
Total excluding new car dealers, used and recreational motor vehicle and parts dealers	**20,833**	**22,602**	**22,537**	**8.2**
Provinces and territories				
Newfoundland and Labrador	516	503	511	-1.0
Prince Edward Island	126	123	128	1.4
Nova Scotia	900	899	938	4.3
New Brunswick	712	692	703	-1.3
Quebec	6,643	7,206	7,118	7.2
Ontario	10,909	11,339	11,385	4.4
Manitoba	964	1,021	1,057	9.7
Saskatchewan	852	898	918	7.8
Alberta	3,379	3,770	3,847	13.8
British Columbia	3,763	4,029	4,133	9.8
Yukon	40	36	40	1.3
Northwest Territories	46	41	47	2.9
Nunavut	19	20	20	2.9

r *Revised figures.*
p *Preliminary figures.*

■

OTHER RELEASES

Oil and gas extraction industry: Capital and operating expenditures

2003

Capital expenditures by the conventional oil and gas extraction industry totalled $23.8 billion in 2003, a jump of 32.5% from 2002. This increase followed on the heel of a 17.5% drop in 2002. The large increase in spending reflected the gains in energy commodity prices in 2003, especially for natural gas. Expenditures in the exploratory and development drilling categories rose 37.3% in 2003, mainly because of an increase in development drilling. Production facilities expenditures were 31.3% higher than in 2002, as a result of the gains in development drilling completions in 2003.

In contrast, the non-conventional sector capital expenditures recorded its first decline since 1998, down 25.2% to $5.0 billion from its record level of 2002, as some major projects came into production mode or near completion in 2003.

Oil and gas extraction industry: Capital and operating expenditures

	2003	2002 to 2003
	$ millions	% change
Capital		
Conventional	23,837.9	32.5
Non-conventional	5,048.3	-25.2
Operating		
Conventional	20,657.5	18.9
Non-conventional	4,068.3	48.5

So far in 2004, sustained high prices for natural gas and crude oil and increasing drilling activity point to a robust year for capital expenditures by the oil and gas extraction industry.

Operating expenses for the conventional sector rose 18.9% from 2002 to $20.7 billion, reflecting higher royalty payments, a major component of operating expenses. For the non-conventional sector, operating expenses reached $4.1 billion, up 48.5% from 2002. This increase was the result of two factors: new facilities entering into production and higher costs of fuel used.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2178.

The 2003 issue of the *Oil and Gas Extraction* (26-213-XIB, $24) will be available later this year.

For more information or to order data, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; *energy@statcan.ca*). To enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact Pierre Després (613-951-3579; *pierre.després@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Shipments of Solid Fuel Burning Heating Products

Second quarter 2004

Data on production and shipments of solid fuel burning heating products for the second quarter are now available.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2189.

The second quarter 2004 issue of *Shipments of Solid Fuel Burning Heating Products*, Vol. 23, no. 2 (25-002-XIB, $7/$21) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; *manufact@statcan.ca*) Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division. ■

Particleboard, Oriented Strandboard and Fibreboard

June 2004

Data on particleboard, oriented strandboard and fibreboard for June are now available.

Available on CANSIM: table 303-0002.

Definitions, data sources and methods: survey number 2141.

The June 2004 issue of *Particleboard, Oriented Strandboard and Fibreboard*, Vol. 40, no. 6 (36-003-XIB, $6/$51) is now available. See *How to order products*.

For more information, or to enquire about the concepts, methods or data quality of this release, contact the dissemination officer (1-866-873-8789; 613-951-9497; *manufact@statcan.ca*), Manufacturing, Construction and Energy Division ■

NEW PRODUCTS

Shipments of Solid Fuel Burning Heating Products, second quarter 2004, Vol. 23, no. 2
Catalogue number 25-002-XIB ($7/$21).

Particleboard, Oriented Strandboard and Fibreboard, June 2004, Vol. 40, no. 6
Catalogue number 36-003-XIB ($6/$51).

Wholesale Trade, June 2004, Vol. 67, no. 6
Catalogue number 63-008-XIE ($15/$150).

Culture, Tourism and the Centre for Education Statistics – Research papers: Canadian framework for culture statistics, no. 21
Catalogue number 81-595-MIE2004021
(free).

All prices are in Canadian dollars and exclude sales tax. Additional shipping charges apply for delivery outside Canada.

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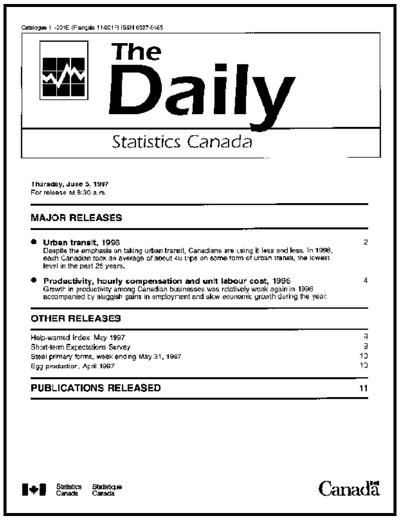

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The Daily

Statistics Canada

Thursday, June 5, 1997
For release at 8:30 a.m.

MAJOR RELEASES

- **Urban transit, 1996** — 2
  Despite the emphasis on taking urban transit, Canadians are using it less and less. In 1996, each Canadian took an average of about 46 trips on some form of urban transit, the lowest level in the past 25 years.
- **Productivity, hourly compensation and unit labour cost, 1996** — 4
  Growth in productivity among Canadian businesses was relatively weak again in 1996 accompanied by sluggish gains in employment and slow economic growth during the year.

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PUBLICATIONS RELEASED 11

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